

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Presently amended) A flush-mounted presser assembly for a die cutting machine, comprising:

a support member having an upper surface which defines a substantially horizontal plane;

a presser movable vertically in a plane perpendicular to said horizontal plane between a first extended position spaced from said support member beneath said horizontal plane and a second retracted position beneath said horizontal plane; and

mounting means for [mounting] operatively connecting said presser to said support member, said mounting means disposed flush with or below said horizontal plane so that said mounting means does not extend above said horizontal plane.

131 2. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 1, wherein said presser comprises a rail member.

3. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 2, wherein said rail member is elongate and extends longitudinally parallel to said horizontal plane.

4. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 1, wherein said presser comprises a finger-like member.

5. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 4, wherein said finger-like member extends vertically in said perpendicular plane.

6. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 1, wherein said mounting means comprises a base mounted on said support, a linkage assembly interconnecting said base and presser, and biasing means for biasing said linkage assembly and presser toward said first extended position.

7. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 6, wherein said base includes a longitudinally extending and downwardly opening channel.

8. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 7, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring disposed within said channel.

9. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 6, wherein said linkage assembly comprises an arm interconnecting said base and presser and having an upper end mounted to said base that simultaneously pivots and moves horizontally with respect to said support as said presser moves between said extended and retracted positions, and a lower end pivotally mounted to said presser, and a link interconnecting said base and arm and having an upper end pivotally mounted to said base and a lower end pivotally mounted to said arm.

10. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 9, wherein the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said link is located at the midpoint between said upper and lower pivotal mountings of said arm.

11. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 10, wherein the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said link is located in a plane extending through the upper and lower pivotal mountings of said arm.

12. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 10, wherein the distances between the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said link and

- (a) the pivotal mounting of the upper end of the said link, and
- (b) the pivotal mounting of the upper end of said arm, and
- (c) the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said arm, are all equal.

13. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 9, wherein said linkage assembly further includes a slider mounted for horizontal sliding movement on said base, and the upper end of said arm is pivotally mounted to said slider.

131 14. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 13, wherein said base includes a longitudinally extending downwardly opening channel, and said slider is disposed in said channel.

15. (Withdrawn) The presser assembly of claim 14, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring disposed within said channel acting against said slider.

16. (Previously amended) The presser assembly of claim 23, wherein said linkage assembly comprises an arm interconnecting said support member and presser and having a lower end mounted to said presser that simultaneously pivots and moves horizontally with respect to said support as said presser moves between said extended and retracted positions, and an upper end pivotally mounted to said support member, and a link interconnecting said arm and presser and having an upper end pivotally mounted to said arm and a lower end pivotally mounted to said presser.

17. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 16, wherein the pivotal mounting of the upper end of said link is located at the midpoint between said upper and lower pivotal mountings of said arm.

18. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 17, wherein the pivotal mounting of the upper end of said link is located in a plane extending through the upper and lower pivotal mountings of said arm.

19. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 17, wherein the distances between the pivotal mounting of the upper end of said link and

- 31
- (a) the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said link, and
 - (b) the pivotal mounting of the upper end of said arm, and
 - (c) the pivotal mounting of the lower end of said arm, are all equal.

20. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 16, wherein said linkage assembly further includes a slider mounted for horizontal sliding movement on said presser, and the lower end of said arm is pivotally mounted to said slider.

21. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 20, wherein said presser includes a longitudinally extending upwardly opening channel, and said slider is disposed in said channel.

22. (Original) The presser assembly of claim 21, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring disposed within said channel acting against said slider.

U.S. Serial No.: 10/035,732
Group Art Unit: 3721
Inventor: Frank E. Oetlinger
Page 6

23. (Previously amended) The presser assembly of claim 1, wherein said mounting
means comprises a linkage assembly interconnecting said support member and presser, and
biasing means for biasing said linkage assembly and presser toward said first extended position.
